

**CRS Activity 510**  
**Floodplain Management Plan**  
**Annual Progress Report**

Date this Report was Prepared: 1/25/19

Name of Community: Westport, CT

Name of Plan: Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan 2016-2021, Update for the South Western Region, Prepared by the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WCCOG), February 2016

Date of Adoption of Plan: May 12, 2016

5 Year CRS Expiration Date: May 12, 2021

**1. How can a copy of the original plan or area analysis report be obtained:**

A copy of the CT South Western Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (2016) is available either in person at the Westport Planning and Zoning Office, or from the WCCOG website: <https://westcog.org/emergency-management/hazard-mitigation>.

**2. Describe how this evaluation report was prepared and how it was submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public:**

The 2016 South Western NHMP was prepared in accordance with 44 CFR Part 201, and was approved by both the State Hazard Mitigation Officer and FEMA Region 1. There were numerous Advisory Committee meetings spanning a period from July 2013 through August 2014. On February 12, 2015, a Public Workshop was held at Darien Town Hall during the 30-day public comment period.

The plan was adopted by a resolution of the Westport Board of Selectman on February 25, 2016, and subsequently made available to the media and the public both physically at the Westport Planning and Zoning Commission, and electronically through the WCCOG website.

**3. Provide a review of each recommendation or action item in the action plan or area analysis report, including a statement on how much was accomplished during the previous year:**

*See Attached*

**4. Discuss why any objectives were not reached or why implementation is behind schedule:**

The Plan outlines the goals with multi-year objectives and projects. Many of those projects are dependent on finding funding.

**5. What are the recommendations for new projects or revised recommendations?**

*See Attached*

January 25, 2019

**Attachment: CRS Activity 510, Progress Report  
Review, Status, and Discussion of Action Items  
Identified in the South Western Region  
Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan**

**1. Table 4.4.3.7-1, Goal 1, Objective A, ID #1**

Deferred: Incorporate Natural Hazard Awareness Week and conduct corresponding outreach to the community and all interested parties. Activities will focus on flooding and other natural hazards, including associated hazard functions, governing laws/regulations, mitigation strategies and precautions. Outreach will also be conducted throughout the year, wherever possible.

Currently working on securing funding.

**2. Table 4.4.3.7-2, Goal 1, Objective B, ID #1**

On-going: Acquire properties within the floodplain as funding becomes available.

The Town of Westport has acquired three properties within the AE and VE flood zones and demolished the buildings located on them. The properties include: 199 Newtown Turnpike, 38 Old Mill Road and 40 Old Mill Road. The Town is continuing to search out properties available for acquisition.

**3. Table 4.4.3.7-3, Goal 1, Objective B, ID #1**

Deferred: Review the Westport Plan of Conservation and Development and other relevant plans to identify open space projects that preserve or restore the functions of natural systems and may be eligible for funding under a mitigation grant.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**4. Table 4.4.3.7-4, Goal 1, Objective C, ID #1**

Deferred: Identify and publicize regulations that will preserve and protect watercourses, waterbodies, wetlands, steep slopes, and floodplains, and those that will conserve floodplain fringe areas, wellhead areas and areas of high groundwater availability.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**5. Table 4.4.3.7-4, Goal 1, Objective C, ID #3**

On-going: Minimize the amount and intensity of development in “V” flood zones, new non-water dependent development from “V” zones.

The Conservation Department sends weekly mailings to new homeowners whose property is within the Aquifer Protection Area or has wetlands or watercourse.

**6. Table 4.4.3.7-4, Goal 1, Objective C, ID #4**

Completed: Change the floodplain regulations to require at least one foot of freeboard for new or substantially improved homes.

The Planning and Zoning Commission adopted Text Amendment #759 on 1/10/19 which modify Westport's Zoning Regulations to require one-foot of free board for new construction in the floodplain consistent with changes that took effect in the CT Building Code on 10/1/18.

**7. Table 4.4.3.7-4, Goal 1, Objective C, ID #5**

In progress: Study the use of V-Zone standards for coastal A-Zones.

The Planning and Zoning Commission adopted Text Amendment #759 on 1/10/19 which modify Westport's Zoning Regulations to require Coastal A zone properties to elevate the lowest structural member to one (1.0) foot above the Base Flood Elevation.

**8. Table 4.4.3.7-4, Goal 1, Objective C, ID #6**

Deferred: Draft an ordinance that would place responsibility for stream channel maintenance on the property owner and give Westport enforcement power. Such ordinances would include stream dumping, channel maintenance, and land clearing disturbances. These ordinances would reduce the likelihood of localized flooding and could lead to additional points toward CRS reclassification.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**9. Table 4.4.3.7-4, Goal 1, Objective C, ID #7**

In progress: Evaluate the zoning regulations for ways to reduce land coverage and building size, including in flood zones.

The Planning and Zoning staff is anticipating conducting this study during 2019-2020.

**10. Table 4.4.3.7-4, Goal 1, Objective C, ID #8**

In progress: Modify Zoning Regulations to change the time horizon for work that is to be included in substantial improvement from 5 years to life of structure.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**11. Table 4.4.3.7-4, Goal 1, Objective C, ID #9 and #10**

In progress: Modify Zoning Regulations to require that any building or structure even if only a portion of which lies in a flood hazard zone is designed to be fully protected as if the entire structure were in the zone.

This has not yet been codified in the regulations but is required per FEMA regulations.

**12. Table 4.4.3.7-4, Goal 1, Objective C, ID #11**

Deferred: Modify Zoning Regulations to prohibit structures entirely or partially over water unless water dependent uses.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**13. Table 4.4.3.7-5, Goal 1, Objective C, ID #1**

In progress: Regularly review subdivision regulations and make appropriate changes to encourage alternatives to placing lots in flood prone areas and to minimize impermeable ground coverings, if necessary.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**14. Table 4.4.3.7-6, Goal 1, Objective D, ID #1**

In progress: Undertake preparation of an update to the 1970 master drainage plan (the “Jackson” study).

The Town of Westport received a \$650,000 Community Development Block Grant for the update of the “Jackson” study and a comprehensive flood study of the Downtown which has now been completed. It is in the process of being published.

**15. Table 4.4.3.7-6, Goal 1, Objective D, ID #7**

Deferred: Westport will encourage the Aspetuck Land Trust to initiate a maintenance program for Sasco Creek as it passes through their property, in an attempt to foster an understanding that maintaining a clear channel in the northern section of the parcel will reduce flooding occurrences on Gristmill Lane. If necessary, Westport can pursue clearing rights on these parcels.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**16. Table 4.4.3.7-7, Goal 1, Objective E, ID #1**

In progress: Pursue and support comprehensive studies that recommend specific strategies for effective erosion abatement.

The Conservation Director has begun looking into the feasibility of a study to address erosion at Compo Mill Cove, an area of significant erosion in Westport.

**17. Table 4.4.3.7-8, Goal 1, Objective F, ID #1**

Deferred: Investigate and pursue the purchase of an automated sand bagger.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**18. Table 4.4.3.7-8, Goal 1, Objective F, ID #2**

On-going: Obtain FEMA training on post disaster single-family dwelling assessments and other flood related issues.

In September 2018, the Fire Chief and staff members attended DEMHS Region 1 training on the Financial Recovery Process including damage assessment public assistance and individual/household assistance and how to mitigate the long-term financial impact on municipalities and avoid de-obligation of funds.

**19. Table 4.4.3.7-8, Goal 1, Objective F, ID #3**

Deferred: Make FEMA's Emergency Management Institute classes available to Town Employees, including Rapid Visual Screening Techniques, designed to teach skills necessary for inventorying disaster-susceptible buildings. Skills acquired by attending this course could be utilized in implementing the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**20. Table 4.4.3.7-9, Goal 1, Objective G, H, I, ID #1**

In progress: Request that FEMA continue to work to improve the accuracy of the updated FIRM maps, with special attention paid to unnumbered A-zones.

The Town of Westport is working with the USGS and FEMA to utilize a comprehensive stream study to update unnumbered A areas of the FEMA flood maps.

**21. Table 4.4.3.7-9, Goal 1, Objective G, H, I, ID #2**

In progress: Obtain and update town GIS with Coastal AE Zones (Limit of Moderate Wave Action [LiMWA]) due to new Building Code requirements for properties within this area.

The Town of Westport worked with FEMA to get an update of the LiMWA in the area of Compo Beach and Owenoke Park.

**22. Table 4.4.3.7-9, Goal 1, Objective G, H, I, ID #3**

In progress: Provide the Building Department with database of properties within Coastal AE Zones (Limit of Moderate Wave Action).

The Planning and Zoning Department anticipates completing this action item in 2019.

**23. Table 4.4.3.7-9, Goal 1, Objective G, H, I, ID #4**

On-going: Encourage elevations of existing homes to comply with Floodplain Regulations.

This is routinely done during meetings with homeowners during walk-in and permit hours in the Planning and Zoning office.

**24. Table 4.4.3.7-10, Goal 2, Objective J, K, L, ID #1**

On-going: Promote the use of functional shutters for properties located along the coast to guard against window breakage which can result in structural failure. Investigate funding sources to promote this relatively inexpensive type of retrofitting on a large scale.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**25. Table 4.4.3.7-11, Goal 3, Objective M, N, O, P, ID #1**

In progress: Retrofit existing above ground utility structures to make them more disaster resilient.

The Town of Westport is in the process of burying the existing above-ground utilities at Parker Harding Plaza and Elm Street.

**26. Table 4.4.3.7-12, Goal 3, Objective M, N, O, P, ID #1**

In process: Determine how to reuse disposed brush within the community to reduce costs of exporting from Westport (chips, firewood, composting).

The Green Energy Task Force and the Solid Waste Division will undertake a pilot project for curbside composting, and collecting food waste from Greens Farms School. If successful the school program may be implemented in additional schools.

**27. Table 4.4.3.7-12, Goal 3, Objective M, N, O, P, ID #2**

On-going: Encourage moving as many utility lines underground as possible.

The Town of Westport is in the process of burying existing above-ground utilities at Parker Harding Plaza and Elm Street.

**28. Table 4.4.3.7-12, Goal 3, Objective M, N, O, P, ID #3**

Deferred: Place deflectors on key utility lines to reduce accumulation of ice or snow.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**29. Table 4.4.3.7-12, Goal 3, Objective M, N, O, P, ID #4**

On-going: Encourage appropriate streetscaping and planting, particularly around utilities.

The Tree Warden regularly reviews development plans during Special Permit, Site Plan and Subdivision reviews and requires modifications if he anticipates utilities will be impacted by new plantings.

**30. Table 4.4.3.7-13, Goal 4, Objective Q, R, S, T, ID #1**

Deferred: Identify additional sites for yard waste and storm debris.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**31. Table 4.4.3.7-13, Goal 4, Objective Q, R, S, T, ID #2**

On-going: Evaluate municipality's sheltering and evacuation needs for a variety of storm scenarios.

The Town of Westport is working to create a shelter and evacuation process for residents in need of special assistance. In addition, the Town updates records quarterly and prior to any major storm event to reflect those in the town that require special assistance as part of storm preparation and planning.

**32. Table 4.4.3.7-13, Goal 4, Objective Q, R, S, T, ID #3**

On-going: Improve coordination with CL&P and NU.

Eversource has identified a liaison for the Town of Westport to address day-to-day concerns and coordinate during storm events. The Town has worked with the liaison during EOC drills and planning sessions and communication has improved. This is an on-going effort to improve coordination and communication.

**33. Table 4.4.3.7-13, Goal 4, Objective Q, R, S, T, ID #4**

Deferred: Identify opportunities for cooperation and coordination with private road associations.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**34. Table 4.4.3.7-14, Goal 5, Objective U, V, W, X, ID #1**

Completed: Improve (bridge) access to Saugatuck Shores community.

The bridge to Saugatuck Shores was replaced in 2017. A deteriorated culvert and eroding road section was replaced and repaired in 2018.

**35. Table 4.4.3.7-15, Goal 5, Objective U, V, W, X, ID #1**

Deferred: Implement specific physical actions that help protect public critical facilities against wind damage as funds become available.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**36. Table 4.4.3.7-15, Goal 5, Objective U, V, W, X, ID #2**

On-going: Encourage private marinas and yacht clubs to develop management plans that address pollution prevention and hazard mitigation.

The Saugatuck Yacht Club installed a boat cleaning area and holding tank to prevent power wash water from discharging directly into the harbor.

**37. Table 4.4.3.7-16, Goal 6, Objective Y, Z, AA, AB, ID #1**

Deferred: Begin to evaluate and work to harden the structural integrity of Town-owned Critical Facilities and buildings and their ability to withstand earthquakes.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.



**38. Table 4.4.3.7-16, Goal 6, Objective Y, Z, AA, AB, ID #2**

Deferred: Encourage privately owned critical facilities to evaluate the ability of the buildings to withstand earthquakes and tornadoes, and to address and deficiencies identified.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**39. Table 4.4.3.7-17, Goal 6, Objective Y, Z, AA, AB, ID #1**

Deferred: During the Natural Hazards Awareness Week include activities, workshops and materials about all natural hazards.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**40. Table 4.4.3.7-17, Goal 6, Objective Y, Z, AA, AB, ID #2**

In progress: Provide the earthquake-related publications to the public library for inclusion with the other natural hazard publications.

The Planning and Zoning staff anticipates this will be complete in 2019.

**41. Table 4.4.3.7-17, Goal 6, Objective Y, Z, AA, AB, ID #3**

Deferred: Request that the Town, including the Board of Education, if applicable, retain the services of a professional engineer to survey all municipally owned buildings for their ability to withstand earthquake and wind loading. Prioritize any retrofitting, giving those buildings to be used as shelters the highest priority. If analysis reveals that a particular building is better suited as a shelter than one that is currently being used, then consider relocating the shelter to that location.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**42. Table 4.4.3.7-18, Goal 6, Objective AC, ID #1**

Deferred: Update drought management plan to be in alignment with State of Connecticut Drought Management plan.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**43. Table 4.4.3.7-19, Goal 6, Objective AD, AE, ID #1**

On-going: Work with the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, local conservation officials and dam owners to identify which dams are no longer serviceable and could be removed. Work to coordinate and identify funding opportunities.

Bulkley Pond dam on Sasco Creek was breached in September 2018. Funding sources will be explored for help in reverting pond to wet meadow.

**44. Table 4.4.3.7-19, Goal 6, Objective AD, AE, ID #2**

On-going: Continue to install and maintain warning gauges on local dams as the opportunity or need arises.

The Town of Westport is and the Downtown Merchants Association took over funding of the tide gauge at Post Road Bridge which the USGS removed from service.

**45. Table 4.4.3.7-19, Goal 6, Objective AD, AE, ID #3**

In progress: Ensure Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) are updated and on file with local emergency management officials. Local emergency management officials will assist dam owners as needed.

Local EOP in process of being updated. The Fire Department has also assisted the Nash's Pond dam owners with their EOP as well.

**46. Table 4.4.3.7-19, Goal 6, Objective AD, AE, ID #4**

On-going: Work with dam owners to ensure that maintenance and inspections are conducted as required and documented with local and state emergency management officials.

The Town of Westport is working to facilitate a meeting with property owners around Bulkley Pond dam on Sasco Creek, upstream stakeholders, and CT DEEP to explain what the options are for next steps.

**47. Table 4.4.3.7-19, Goal 6, Objective AD, AE, ID #5**

Deferred: Develop and conduct a Dam Failure Exercise that involve all stakeholders and encourages preparedness through practice using public notifications systems. Assess and practice evacuation and response plans. Practice communication and coordination of local and state emergency response personnel.

This action item has not yet been undertaken.

**48. Table 4.4.3.7-19, Goal 6, Objective AD, AE, ID #6**

On-going: Develop public awareness information material to distribute to property owners/occupants in the dam failure inundation zones.

The Town of Westport began working with dam owners to understand their responsibilities and provided information on Dam Safety prepared by CT DEEP.

**49. Table 4.4.3.7-20, Goal 6, Objective AF, AG, AH ID #1**

On-going: Evaluate how to best prepare for the implications of global sea level rise to best balance public health, safety, and welfare.

As part of a Community Development Block Grant discussed in #14 above, the Downtown Resilience and Recovery Plan that is based on sea level rise predictions has been completed and is awaiting publication.